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NO QUORUM.

The Obnoxious Wilson Tariff Bill Causes a Deadlock.

WASHINGTON, January 8.—From the time the house reconvened on Wednesday until to-day, there were not enough members to get a vote on anything pertaining to the Wilson tariff bill. This was occasioned by democratic opposition to the bill.

Representative Sperry, who represents the Democratic objectors to the Wilson bill, tried unsuccessfully in the house throughout the day to secure recognition in order to move to recommit the tariff bill, with instructions to prepare and submit the internal revenue feature before asking for a special rule closing debate. Mr. Sperry tried to bring the resolution in as a matter of privilege, but Speaker Crisp persistently refused to recognize him.

Mr. Sperry states the position of the democratic opposition as follows:

The parliamentary situation in the house at the present time is this: The ways and means committee has reported a tariff bill which shows \$75,000,000 deficiency as compared with the receipts under the present law. They are also expected to report an internal revenue bill, and as a part of that bill the democratic end of the ways and means committee has agreed by a majority of one to an income tax.

"The tariff bill has been reported, estimates made and everyone is informed on its details and is able to act intelligently. But the internal revenue bill has not been reported and no one knows, not even the members of the committee, what provisions that bill will contain when it is finally reported. It has been the settled policy of the ways and means committee that the tariff bill and revenue bills should be separately prepared, separately presented and separately voted upon. Within the last week intimations have been made by members of the ways and means committee that the internal revenue bill would be attached to the tariff bill as an amendment. And yet no internal revenue bill has been prepared and nothing is known as to the amount of revenue it would yield to the government.

"With these conditions confronting the house the ways and means committee has sought the aid of the rules committee and has brought in a rule by which they propose to limit debate upon the subject matter of legislation which is not yet in form, and on which no member of congress has authentic information. In other words, the committee on rules proposed to adopt a cloture rule, limiting debate and fixing time for a vote and then to offer the bill for consideration. It does not, perhaps, make so much difference whether the tariff bill and the revenue

bill are considered separately or together, but it seems to me that every congressman is entitled to have the intended legislation put into print with the majority and minority reports of the committee, with estimates of the results of the legislation, if enacted, and is entitled to that before he is expected to vote on a cloture on a bill that is not in existence. I don't think there is any disposition to prevent consideration of a tariff bill or of an internal revenue bill, and the objections are due to the fact that the ways and means committee have not yet fully formulated legislation and have not decided whether an internal revenue bill shall or shall not be introduced separately or as a part of the tariff bill. Until the ways and means committee decide what they intend to do they can hardly object if we delay further proceedings in the house until that committee shall decide what course of action they expect to pursue."

BOND QUESTION MUST WAIT.

The ways and means committee has two important tasks before it, one the final settlement of the terms of the internal revenue branch of the tariff bill, and the other the authorization of bonds to meet the pressing treasury deficit. Mr. Wilson says the bond question will have to wait until the tariff is out of the way. There is little doubt, however, that a bond proposition will emanate from the committee at an early day, as a majority of the democratic members of the committee are known to be ready to adopt a measure on the lines suggested by Secretary Carlisle in his recent report.

On the other hand, there is an energetic minority among the democratic members of the committee which does not believe in a bond measure. Mr. Bryan believes in coining the seignorage now in the treasury, and Mr. Whiting would either coin it or else resort to another issue of notes something like the old greenbacks to the extent of \$100,000,000, and make these notes payable in coin. These minority views are not likely to receive much consideration, however, when the administration wants bonds and a majority of the democrats on the committee are favorable to the bond project.

The internal revenue features of the tariff will be passed on by the ways and means committee within a day or two, as Messrs. McMillin and Bryan have about completed the draft which is to be submitted to the full democratic membership of the committee and then to the full committee. The essential features of an income tax, an increased 10 per cent. on whisky, a tax on playing cards, etc., are well understood, but there remains to be determined the important details of how the income tax shall be levied and collected. It also re-

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OUR STATESMEN.

Mrs. Diggs Gives Credit and Criticism Where They Are Due.

Special Correspondence.

An attempt to summarize the doings of the present session of congress brings out in bold relief the minus quantity of legislation and the overplus of talk and oratory.

THE OATES BANKRUPTCY BILL.

This bill was voted down; the Populists assisted in killing it because it was so framed as to enable any designing person to force men into bankruptcy for the benefit mainly of the lawyers and court officials. Mr. Bailey, of Texas, has introduced a voluntary bankruptcy bill which will doubtless receive the support of the Populists. It would, however, be vastly better for the country for the currency to be increased so that men could pay their debts. Hon. John Davis made a strong speech on this bill in which he clearly pointed out the wise course to pursue.

THE HAWAIIAN MATTER.

Concise stated, the question is as follows: Under the Harrison administration a scheme for the annexation of Hawaii was inaugurated. The chief purpose was to enable the citizens of this country who held large interests in sugar plantations on the island to receive bounty on their sugar. The native monarchy under Queen Liliuokalani was overthrown by a so-called provisional government. This was done with the connivance of the officials representing the United States government. There was no demand on the part of the Hawaiians for a change of government, no trouble, no popular uprising; it was simply the work of a few interested parties who, for purposes of gain, plotted to install a government which would formally ask to be annexed to the United States. United States troops were landed in the capital city, and marched to the support of the "provisional government." In the presence of this armed force the native government dared not resist, and thus the "revolution" was accomplished. For this monstrous deed the Hawaiian administration deserves the condemnation of the entire country. No such measures should have been taken without the acquiescence of the people. The high-handed procedure might have involved our nation in war with other nations. So much for the republican part in the affair. Now for the democratic part. One of Mr. Cleveland's first acts was to withdraw from the senate the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii. He then sent a special commissioner, Mr. Blount, to Hawaii with private instructions to negotiate with the queen for her restoration, and for the overthrow of the provisional govern-

ment. Mr. Blount's whole course while in Hawaii shows the most biased and unfair determination to ascertain and report only such things as would condemn the acts of Mr. Stephens, the minister under the Harrison regime. The course of the Cleveland administration is not one whit less reprehensible than that of the preceding one. It was equally as dangerous to provoke disturbance and risk foreign embrogios as the first misstep. It was quite as criminal for Mr. Cleveland to arrogate to himself the right to send a commissioner privately instructed as for Mr. Harrison to conduct his negotiations without the knowledge or consent of the American people. In either case the peace of the nation was jeopardized by the conspirators. In the first instance, greed was the inspiring cause; in the latter, Mr. Grosham's spleen and Mr. Cleveland's desire to give the former administration "a black eye" were the motive. There will be much valuable time wasted in congress on this matter. The people should know congress under with petitions demanding that Hawaii should be given a rest.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

Much time has been consumed, and more will be, over this old strife between those who seek to extend the power of the general government and those who contend for state and local control of elections. Senator Stewart made a vigorous speech against the further extension of federal power, in which he said: "I am more and more satisfied that federal interference in local elections is vicious in practice, vicious in principle and vicious in results." It is not at all probable that anything more than acrimonious debate on this matter will result in this congress.

INCOME TAX.

It really looks at this present time as if this just and righteous measure might be enacted into law this winter. The ways and means committee have reported favorably, and sentiment is largely in favor of it. There will be some tremendously hard work on the part of Grover Cleveland and his friends. Of course nothing will be done on the part of the president or masters whom he serves will bid him to kill a measure which would tax from them some of their ill gotten gains. But the case is a plainer one than was the silver question. The people cannot be so bemuddled and befuddled as they were upon the sacred mystery of anything pertaining to finance, hence there is hope. There really is a greater sovereign than Grover in the United States, &c. the people. Ah if the sovereign people did but know their rights and would but use their power, congress would not hesitate

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